

Editorial

Good Bye and Hello: Up to new shores

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Dear Readers,

May I ask for a few minutes of your time? It is my pleasure to take the opportunity of the July edition to inform you about some personal issues as they have impacts on my future professional and editorial life.

After 39 years, 2 months and 2 weeks in contract research and consulting, I retired at the end of June 2003 from C.A.U. GmbH where I have spent the last 11 years. My work at C.A.U. will be continued by ISA RENNER who has belonged to the editorial board of Int J LCA from the beginning. Since 1990, she has performed many LCAs for industry and governments and has contributed significantly to the development of the two most important components of LCA, which are Inventory Analysis and Impact Assessment.

Indirectly, my retirement brings about **some changes in the procedure of paper submission** to this journal. These changes are explained in detail in the revised 'Instructions for Authors' (see the website of Int J LCA at: <http://www.scientificjournals.com/lca/>).

Essentially, I will be responsible for the **peer-review process**, from the examination of abstracts submitted (as in the past), through the acceptance (or refusal) of papers. ALMUT B. HEINRICH will take care of aspects related to language problems as well as to the proper appearance, presentation, and performance of papers, editions, and cover pages – apart from all other areas which concern advertising, promotion, marketing, internet, distribution and the financial management. Due to the heavy manuscript flow, this splitting of responsibilities has turned out to be necessary in order to avoid delays in the processing of papers. Notwithstanding the changes in respect to managing the review process, the two of us will continue thinking about innovative strategies. We have established a firm phone date on Friday, late afternoon, to discuss current problems and future developments.

In this context, I would like to explain our attitude in respect to the technical form in which manuscripts should be submitted. The purpose of **author guidelines** is to reach the best possible readability and understandability of a paper. The referees are the first critical readers of the submitted articles and should be in the position to concentrate on the scientific content without being irritated by carelessly prepared texts, figures and tables. To facilitate the review proc-

ess, and for the sake of best positioning the papers, it is our policy to provide the peer reviewers with manuscripts which correspond to the formal and technical requirements of Int J LCA. Papers which are submitted as draft versions are subject to critical emotions, which can easily be avoided.

Let me now refer to **my personal future activities**. I will continue with **private consulting on LCA and related topics**. Critical reviews according to ISO 14040, § 7.3.2 and 7.3.3 are predominant. The latter (according to ISO 14040, § 7.3.3) are obligatory for LCA studies containing comparative assertions disclosed to the public and require a panel of reviewers. When appointed as chairman, I usually invite small, tailor-made expert teams for the specific projects. In my new affiliation, the term 'LCA CONSULT & REVIEW' refers less to a company rather than to the cooperation with small teams of changing composition. Certainly, in turn, it is also my pleasure to join critical review teams chaired by colleagues. Another future activity is to contribute to larger projects as a team member, not only in the field of LCA, but also in the area of chemicals in the environment (e.g. Persistent Organic Chemicals – POPs).

Although I like hiking and have an intellectual pastime (collection of austriacisms, see the section 'sidelines' in my website), I clearly belong to the group of 'anti-gardeners'. Thus, I will continue **lecturing at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz**. Finally, I have recently accepted the invitation to join **SETAC-Europe Council**. Since LCA will be one of my duties there, I would like to ask the LCA-community to provide ideas and suggestions as to how LCA could scientifically be fostered by SETAC-Europe. In this function, I will also cooperate with the LCA-advisory group, a board to which I belonged about 10 years ago.

Since the launch of Int J LCA, as I have recently discovered, I have been a happy person. The journal fulfills the function of either a profession and a hobby and, at this point, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have supported me, year by year, in the development of this journal: to my co-editors, authors, advisors, advertisers, readers and subscribers and, last but not least, to 'my' publisher editor - and I do hope that all of you will continue to accompany me through the challenges of the forthcoming years.